



29 March 2012

Dear Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

As the CEO of a company that has contributed to the Connecticut economy since 1979, I am asking you to ensure that our customers have access to places where they can enjoy the outdoor gear and apparel they buy from us and pay Connecticut sales tax on. My request is not about "tree hugging". Our 7 Connecticut stores contribute 135 jobs and millions of dollars in taxable revenue to the Connecticut economy. Eastern Mountain Sports is a big believer in the state of Connecticut. So much so, for the third time in the last two years, we are in the process of relocating a Connecticut store to a new location approximately three times the size of its former location.

Just over a year ago, I asked for and received your support for H.B. 6557. Thanks to your assistance, this amendment to the Recreational Land Use Act passed. As a result, recreational liability protection to municipalities was restored with some exceptions and Connecticut residents were ensured essential access to close-to-home recreation.

Unfortunately, S.B. 445 threatens to take a significant piece of this progress away and I am once again asking for your assistance. Please reject S.B. 445 which proposes to make boardwalks, public beaches, and paved sidewalks ineligible for recreational liability protection.

Access to open lands for hiking, paddling, cycling, and running are essential to the fiscal health of the Connecticut economy as well as the physical health of all Connecticut residents. For all these reasons, I respectfully ask that you help keep municipal recreation lands open by voting against S.B. 445.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Manzer", written over a horizontal line.

Will Manzer
Chief Executive Officer
Eastern Mountain Sports

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